

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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R 151148Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2064
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
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C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 0788

EXDIS

USEEC ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: NATO EEC NL
SUBJECT: CONSULTATIONS WITH NATO ALLIES

REF: STATE 38167

1. TRADITIONALLY THE DUTCH HAVE STRONGLY ASSERTED THEIR INTEREST IN BEING INCLUDED IN CONSULTATIONS ON ISSUES AFFECTING THEIR INTERESTS. THOUGH THEY ARE AWARE THAT THEY DO NOT RANK WITH THE LARGER EUROPEAN POWERS, THEY LOOK UPON THEMSELVES AS NOT FAR BEHIND AND THEY ATTACH GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THEIR NATO MEMBERSHIP, RECOGNIZING THAT IT CONSTITUTES THE ENTRY TICKET TO THE HIGH-LEVEL ATLANTIC DECISION-MAKING PROCESS. THERE HAS ALSO BEEN A SPECIAL SENSITIVITY ABOUT ECONOMIC SUMMITS, WHICH HAS BEEN ONLY PARTLY ASSUAGED BY PROMISES OF FUTURE EC PARTICIPATION.

2. FROM THE DUTCH POINT OF VIEW, CONSULTATIONS IN THE NAC AND
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DPC CONTEXT HAVE THE OBVIOUS ADVANTAGE THAT IT INCLUDES THEM. THIS IS NOT TO SAY THAT THEY HAVE BEEN DISSATISFIED WITH NPG WHICH, DESPITE THE ROTATIONAL ELEMENT, IS REGARDED WITH HIGH FAVOR IN THE HAGUE.

3. THERE IS ONE NEW CONCERN NOW SURFACING WHICH COULD ACQUIRE SERIOUS DIMENSIONS. IT RELATES TO THE MANNER IN WHICH FUTURE

CONSULTATIONS ON SALT AND RELATED ISSUES ARE HANDLED. SO FAR
THIS CONCERN IS WELL WITHIN BOUNDS AND CONFINED ONLY TO THOSE
RELATIVELY FEW PROFESSIONALS, MOSTLY IN THE GOVERNMENT WHO DEAL
WITH THESE ISSUES. THERE IS A POTENTIAL DANGER, HOWEVER, THAT
REAL OR PERCEIVED EXCLUSION OF THE DUTCH FROM SALT III
CONSULTATIONS COULD GROW INTO A MAJOR PUBLIC ISSUE.
BROWN

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NNN

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